

# MARSHALL: REPUBLICAN.

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NO. 35.

## DOUBLE TRAGEDY.

**William Thomas Shoots His Sweetheart Three Times and Then Kills Himself. Jealousy the Cause.**

Wednesday evening about 9 o'clock Wm. Thomas shot his sweetheart, Minnie Mayse, and then shot himself. He died almost instantly, but some hopes are entertained for the young lady. The tragedy occurred at the home of Charles Aldridge, one-half mile north of Antioch church, in the South-east portion of this county. Arthur Cox, a young man who was working for Charles Aldridge at the time of the tragedy, gives the following account of the shooting:

### COX'S STATEMENT.

Miss Minnie has been visiting her sister for about three weeks, and I took her to singing at Antioch last night. Will Thomas came into the church a short time after we did. After the singing was over Will Thomas came to me and asked me to excuse Miss Minnie, as he wanted to talk to her. "I said, 'certainly.'" She refused to go with him, and I took her home in my buggy. Thomas drove along behind us part of the way, and passed us a short time before we got to Chas. Aldridge's. When we got there I drove inside the yard, and Thomas stopped his horses in the road, jumped out of his buggy and came to my buggy just as I helped the young lady out. I walked around to hitch my horse and I heard Thomas say to her, "Come on, you heard what I said; if you don't come I will kill you both."

I told her to go on and she started toward the house with Thomas. She said good-bye to me. I got into my buggy and started home. When a short distance away, I heard three pistol shots. I jumped out of my buggy and ran to the front of the house. When I reached the front door, Miss Mayse was lying on the ground and Thomas was running toward the road. Another shot was fired after he got into the road. I helped Mr. and Mrs. Aldridge carry Miss Mayse into the house and then went for the mother of Miss Mayse.

When I drove out into the road my horse scared at Thomas' body, which was lying in the road, the blood pouring from his mouth. When I returned from the home of Mrs. Mayse, Thomas was dead.

The following statement was made by Mrs. Aldridge, a sister of Miss Mayse: I attended singing school with my husband and returned home a short time before Mr. Cox and my sister. I was in the house, did not hear Mr. Thomas say anything. When we heard the pistol shots we ran to the door and Minnie was falling to the ground. We carried her into the house. My sister has been engaged to Mr. Thomas about one year. If they had any quarrels, I don't know about it.

Dr. F. J. C. Walker and Dr. J. F. Wheeler were called and found Thomas' body lying in the road and the young lady was resting easy. Upon examination it was found that the young lady had been shot three times. A flesh wound on the left wrist, another on the right side of her neck and one in her back. The ball entered to the left of the spine between the sixth and seventh dorsal vertebrae. Dr. Wheeler and Dr. J. F. Jarvis, of Sweet Springs, probed for the ball, but did not succeed in locating it.

Thomas left two letters sealed in his trunk, one addressed to his mother and one to the mother of his sweetheart, in which he stated that he would kill the girl and himself. These letters were dated July 1901.

### CORONER'S VERDICT.

STATE OF MISSOURI, } SS.  
COUNTY OF SALINE.

We, the jury, having been duly sworn and affirmed by J. E. Ragdale, Coroner of Saline County, Missouri, diligently to inquire and true presentment make, in what manner and by whom William Thomas, whose dead body was found at Charles Aldridge's in Liberty township, county and state aforesaid, on the 24 day of October, A. D. 1901, came to his death, after having heard the evidence, and upon full inquiry concerning the facts, and a careful examination of said body, do find that the deceased came to his death by voluntarily shooting himself in the mouth with a 38-calibre revolver, after having shot Miss Minnie Mayse. This conclusion was reached after having read two letters found in his trunk addressed to his mother and to Mrs. Molte Mayse, in which he stated that he intended to kill Miss Minnie Mayse and himself.

Given under our hands, at Herndon, in the county of Saline aforesaid, this 31 day of October, A. D. 1901.

CHAS. W. LUSE, Foreman.  
GEO. T. REID,  
J. W. KILLION, } Jurors.  
A. L. AULGUR,  
J. A. BURGESS,  
ROBT. CONNOR,  
J. E. RAGDALE, Coroner.

### ERASTUS PERRY KIL'S HIMSELF.

#### Shot in the Head With a Rifle.

Erastus Perry, who was living on a farm, about seven miles south of Marshall, shot himself Wednesday afternoon with a target rifle, causing death a few hours later. At the time of the tragedy there was no one at home but the two younger daughters of the deceased, the mother being away on a visit to Mrs. LaRue, a married daughter. The cause assigned for the rash act is business difficulties of which he had recently mentioned. Mr. Perry was 45 years old and leaves a wife and seven children as follows:

Misses Lennie and Nellie Perry, Mesdames Ambrose LaRue, Geo. Wright and Ben Blanton, all of this county, and Clell and Less Perry, who live in California.

Funeral services were held Thursday afternoon at Mt. Olive church, conducted by Rev. James Martin.

### Elmer E. Stump

The following notice of the death of Elmer E. Stump is taken from a Medford (O. T.) paper:

Died, Medford's citizens were shocked last Friday to learn the sad news of the death of our respected townman, Elmer E. Stump, who departed this life at Sterling, Kas., after a very brief illness with typhoid fever. Mr. Stump was born in Edgar county, Ill., December 14, 1867, and died Friday, Sept. 20, 1901, thus being 33 years 9 months and 6 days of age. The remains were brought to Medford, Saturday evening and interred in Rosemount cemetery Sunday afternoon. Deceased was a member of the M. W. A. and this order largely assisted in the funeral rites.

Rev. Mr. Harper, of the Methodist church, conducted the ceremonies at the church, after which a large number of friends followed the sorrowing relatives to the cemetery. Mr. Stump was section foreman on the Rock Island for several years, but resigned this position last summer and purchased a threshing machine, with which he was connected until his death, having recently sent the machine to Sterling. He was an exemplary citizen and respected by all, who will grieve with the grief-stricken wife and child in their early and sad loss.